

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2453

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJECT: NATAL, KWAZULU SCHOOLS SITUATION

REF: A. JOHANNESBURG 001,002 B.CAPE TOWN 0013, C.DURBAN 76/448

1. SUMMARY: SCHOOLS OPENING SITUATION IN NATAL AND KWAZULU IS LESS PROBLEMATIC THAN THAT PERTAINING IN SOME OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA (REFTELS). WITH EXCEPTION OF UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND, LOCAL BLACK SCHOOLS COMPLETED 1976 SCHOOL YEAR WITHOUT EXTENSIVE BOYCOTTING AND ARE EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN NORMALLY IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. ZULULAND UNIVERSITY, WHERE INKATHA LEADERS ARE MAKING STRONG EFFORT TO DISCIPLINE STUDENT BODY, IS TENTATIVELY EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN BY MARCH 1.END SUMMARY

2. PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS. UNLIKE SITUATION IN SOME OTHER PARTS OF SA, AFRICAN STUDENTS IN NATAL AND KWAZULU DID NOT TAKE PART IN WIDESPREAD OR CONTINUED BOYCOTTING OF PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASSES IN 1976. THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS IN MID-SEPTEMBER IN DURBAN'S UMLAZI AND KWAMASHU TOWNSHIPS IN WHICH STUDENTS MARCHED IN SYMPATHY FOR

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SOWETO DEMONSTRATORS AND BOYCOTTED CLASSES. ONE KWAMASHU SCHOOL WAS CLOSED FOR 13 DAYS AS A RESULT. HOWEVER, ALL THESE INCIDENTS WERE CLOSED AFTER CONSULTATION BETWEEN PARENTS, STUDENTS, POLICE AND INKATHA LEADERS WHO CONSISTENTLY URGED STUDENTS TO FOLLOW CHIEF BUTHELEZI'S LINE ON REMAINING IN SCHOOL AND AVOIDING VIOLENCE. A NUMBER OF ACTS OF MINOR VANDALISM OCCUREED AT AFRICAN SCHOOLS DURING THE WORST OF

THE SOWETO VIOLENCE IN 1976, BUT THESE WERE NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO INTERRUPT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WHICH CONTINUED TO OPERATE NORMALLY THROUGH SCHEDULED CLOSINGS IN DECEMBER. ALL NATAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS CURRENTLY ARE ON VACATION AND ALL ARE EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN WITHOUT INCIDENT ON SCHEDULED DATES, VIZ JANUARY 18 FOR WHITE, AFRICAN AND INDIAN SCHOOLS; JANUARY 19 FOR COLORED, AND FEBRUARY 1 FOR KWAZULU SCHOOLS. (REF C PROVIDED ANALYSIS ON WHY NATAL/KWAZULU AFRICANS WERE SO RELATIVELY QUIET DURING TUMULTUOUS EVENTS IN 1976.)

3. AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL, STUDENTS AT INDIAN UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE ENGAGED IN A BRIEF BOYCOTT OF CLASSES IN MID-AUGUST AFTER ARREST OF A NUMBER OF FELLOW STUDENTS AND IN PROTEST AGAINST USE OF AFRIKAANS. THIS BOYCOTT ENDED AUGUST 19 AFTER STUDENTS WERE THREATENED WITH DISCIPLINARY ACTION. SOME 200 STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF NATAL BLACK MEDICAL SCHOOL ENGAGED IN A PROTEST MARCH IN JUNE 1976 AS A RESULT OF WHICH A NUMBER WERE ARRESTED, SEVERAL FLED COUNTRY AND ABOUT 90 STUDENTS PAID FINES; OPERATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL CONTINUED. HOWEVER, MOST SERIOUS 1976 INCIDENT WAS JUNE 18 RIOT AT UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND WHERE A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS WERE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED. UNIVERSITY WAS CLOSED DOWN FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR BUT TENTATIVELY IS SCHEDULED TO RE-OPEN FOR REGISTRATION FEBRUARY 18 AND FOR CLASSES MARCH 1. DURBAN A-82 AND A-83, 11/10/76, DESCRIBED SITUATION WITH REGARD TO ZULULAND UNIVERSITY, PARTICULARLY EFFORTS BEING MADE BY INKATHA TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF VIOLENT STUDENT ACTIVITY BY INSTALLING STRONG PARTY YOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPERATION WITHIN UNIVERSITY. POST IS FOLLOWING Z.U. DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AS THERE IS SOME INDICATION INKATHA MAY ENCOUNTER OPPOSITION FROM SASO/BPC ORIENTED STUDENTS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY AFFECT OPENING DATE. FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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